

Testimony of Lucia Aschettino
Before the Appropriations Committee of the Connecticut General Assembly
Feb. 19, 2016

The PCSW is a critical organization for all women in Connecticut. We cannot afford to become complacent with the status quo -- especially around the issue of wage inequity. For decades, the PCSW has been creating awareness of pay inequity and keeping this battle alive in Connecticut. The PCSW uses current research data to create compelling arguments for wage equity in the state.

The gender-based wage gap affects women across the lifespan. Young women today need to have the same opportunities to succeed and earn equal wages comparable to their male colleagues! The fact is that the cost of attaining a college education is the same for women and men, and the burden of paying off college loans is all the same for women and men, but no one asks why do we still have gender wage inequality?

The ramifications of not being paid the same wages as men does a lifelong dis-service to women in the workforce. And after a working life of being cheated out of fair wages, women in their later years have less retirement income than men.

As the parent of two daughters, aged 20 and 25, I believe we owe it to this younger generation to provide them with a brighter future. The PCSW is instrumental to representing and advocating all women of Connecticut, we simply cannot afford to minimize its work, especially in the area of pay equity.